

personal and mixed property, to borrow money, to issue, negotiate, sell and pledge evidences of indebtedness and to secure same by pledges, deeds of trust or mortgage, of both the whole or any part of the property of this corporation; and to receive, collect and pay out money for the accomplishment of its corporate purposes.

ARTICLE IX. "OFFICERS"

The Board of Directors shall elect the following officers: A President, who shall be chairman of the Board of Directors, a Vice-President, who shall be Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Board shall regulate and collect from all members according to its by-laws made for said purpose. The Board of Directors may create new offices and regulate the duties of the officers as it may deem advisable. The first officers are:

NAME	OFFICE
1. Percy Lee Bradford	President
2. Earnest Thomas	Vice-President
3. Charlie White	Secretary
4. Cosetta Jackson	Treasurer

ARTICLE X.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, amend and replace by-laws to govern this corporation provided they are in accordance with and do not conflict with these articles.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, said Incorporators have hereunto signed their names at Monroe, Louisiana, in the presence of Barbara L. Sharp and Geraldine Williams, legal and competent witnesses, and me, said Notary Public, on this the 5th day of March, 1965, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five.

/s/ Barbara L. Sharp
 /s/ Percy Lee Bradford
 PERCY LEE BRADFORD
 /s/ Earnest Thomas
 EARNEST THOMAS
 /s/ Charlie White
 CHARLIE WHITE
 /s/ Geraldine Williams
 GERALDINE WILLIAMS
 /s/ James Sharp, Jr.
 NOTARY PUBLIC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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[REDACTED] was interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated he did not wish to furnish any information concerning the Deacons of Defense and Justice until he had spoken to some of the other members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth
Height
Weight
Eyes
Hair
Employment

Negro
Male

b7C
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8/3/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

Special Agent [REDACTED] and b7C
Special Agent [REDACTED]/erp

Date dictated 8/3/65

- 15 -

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Date August 17, 1965

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B. APPROX. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] furnished the following information:

Deacons of Defense and Justice, a corporation which has its headquarters in Jonesboro. He said that the purpose of the organization is to protect the Negroes living in the Negro section of Jonesboro. He stated that his group would only resort to violence if they were attacked by a group such as the Ku Klux Klan. He stated that the group does not have a source of arms, but the individual members of the organization were armed. In addition, he stated that these guns were kept in the individual members homes and were not hidden in a cache somewhere. He advised that there was no actual training given to any of the members in the use of firearms.

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He stated that there are about 15 to 20 active members in the Jonesboro chapter, and that the actual membership in Jonesboro amounted to approximately 50 to 75 persons. He stated that only two other chapters of the Deacons have been organized in Louisiana, and they are located at Bogalusa and Homer. To his knowledge, no other chapters of the Deacons have been formed anywhere in the United States. He stated that he did not know the number of members or the names of the officers in either Homer or Bogalusa.

[REDACTED] stated that the bylaws of the organization have not yet been drawn up and that this was one of the major problems facing the organization. He stated that once the bylaws were drawn up that each new chapter of the Deacons that was formed would be expected to follow the bylaws as proposed by the National Headquarters here in Jonesboro. [REDACTED] said that at present the group plans for the other chapters is to forward 10 per cent of their dues to the National Organization here in Jonesboro.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~On 8/3/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

Special Agent [REDACTED] and

Special Agent [REDACTED] /mrp

b7C
Date dictated 8/4/65

- 16 -

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NO (157-3290)

VJH:mrp

CONFIDENTIAL

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██████████ stated that the officers of the Deacons were as follows:

President	PERCY LEE BRADFORD
Vice-President	ERNEST THOMAS
Secretary	CHARLEY WHITE
Treasurer	COSSETTA JACKSON MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

He said that election of new officers would be held in the near future.

He said that ERNEST THOMAS is presently in California and that the Deacons are not paying for the expenses involved in the trip. ██████████ said that the Deacons did pay for the plane fare of THOMAS on one occasion when he went to New York. He stated that the statements being made to the press by THOMAS have not been approved by the membership. He did state that some of the talk concerning the weapons and number of members in the Deacons has been exaggerated in order to deceive the Ku Klux Klan, and the local Sheriff's Office.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name
Address

Race
Sex
Height
Weight

Negro
Male

- 17 -

CONFIDENTIAL

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9 NO (157-3290)
10 VJH:mrp
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CONFIDENTIAL

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16 Eyes
17 Hair
18 Age
19 Place of Birth
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22 Occupation
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 17, 1965~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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[REDACTED] was contacted and he furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] advised he is a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Jonesboro Chapter, [REDACTED]. He advised that during the summer of 1964 several CORE workers come to Jonesboro to aid the Negroes. The white people in the community became alarmed at their presence in Jonesboro and shortly afterwards an auto caravan containing Ku Klux Klan members drove through the Negro quarters of Jonesboro throwing out Ku Klux Klan literature and telling the residents to get rid of the CORE workers. [REDACTED] advised the Negroes became so alarmed at this incident they decided that since local law enforcement was not protecting them they would get together and form a group to defend their homes and property in the event the Ku Klux Klan returned. As a result, a large number of Negroes went to their homes and returned with firearms. They returned to the CORE headquarters area in Jonesboro to await the return of the Ku Klux Klan. The latter did not return. [REDACTED] advised this was the start of the idea to form the Deacons.

[REDACTED] In an effort to come up with a name that would indicate their organization was for the good of all people they decided on the name Deacons of Defense and Justice. The name Deacons denotes something religious as the name was taken from the Deacon of the church. The word Defense would indicate they were not an offensive group, but would protect and defend themselves when necessary.

[REDACTED] He stated that at the present time PERCY LEE BRADFORD is the president, and

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 8/6/65 at Grassburg, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290
by Special Agent [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] b7c
Special Agent [REDACTED] 7mrp Date dictated 8/8/65

NO (157-3290)
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CHARLEY WHITE is the Financial Secretary. ERNEST THOMAS is the acting Vice-President and Fieldman. At the present time THOMAS is in San Francisco. His job as Fieldman is to raise funds and attempt to organize new Chapters. [REDACTED] advised THOMAS is expected to return to Jonesboro sometime around the middle of August, 1965.

[REDACTED] advised the Deacons have monthly dues of \$2.00 for each member. The Jonesboro Chapter also has an initiation fee of \$10.00 per member. He stated that when a new Chapter is organized the original Chapter fee is \$100.00, and this is sent to Jonesboro. Each Chapter itself can designate its own initiation fee and the Chapter keeps this money. Thereafter each Chapter must send 10 per cent of the dues collected each month to the headquarters in Jonesboro. [REDACTED] stated he does not know how many Chapters or members there are at the present time. He advised [REDACTED] would have this information. He also stated that ERNEST THOMAS has not made any reports [REDACTED] on his trip so he does not believe the information concerning all the Chapters and members will be known until THOMAS returns.

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17 [REDACTED] advised he has read some of the
18 remarks made in the newspapers by ERNEST THOMAS. He
19 advised the organization does not furnish weapons to
20 its members as most of them have personally owned
21 weapons. He does not know of any source of weapons
22 or cache which the Deacons might have. He personally
23 feels that if THOMAS made this remark it is possible
24 he, THOMAS has developed a source for obtaining
25 weapons in his travels.
26

27
28 [REDACTED] related that not all the men in
29 the leadership of the Deacons agree with THOMAS and
30 his way of thinking. At the present time none of the
31 Deacons in Jonesboro, to his knowledge, know exactly
32 what he is doing or has accomplished in his travels,
33 and they will probably not know until he returns.
34

35
36 [REDACTED] stated that the Deacons is open
37 to anyone over the age of 21 who satisfactorily passes
38 a background check. This investigation is usually
39 conducted by [REDACTED] or another member of the Jonesboro
40 Chapter. The main reason for this check is to keep
41 undesirable people out of the organization such as those
42 with criminal characteristics or those who have very
43 poor credit records in the community. He also stated
44 the Deacons prefer married men and they prefer all
45 members to be registered voters.
46

47
48 It was tactfully pointed out to [REDACTED]
49 the dangers inherent in illegal arming and illegal acts
50 which might result from encouragement of members to
51 arm and carry firearms.
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NO (157-3290)

MMN:mrp

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The following description was obtained during
interview and from observation:

Name

Residence

Race

Sex

Height

Weight

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

Occupation

Negro

Male

b7C
b7D

- 22 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 8/17/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he is a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. He stated that this organization first started as a club about the last part of Spring, 1964. He stated that this club did not have a name but consisted of Negro males residing in the "Quarters" section of Jonesboro, Louisiana. [REDACTED] recalled that sometime in July or August, 1964, about 9:00 P.M. a caravan of about 35 cars containing from three to five members of the Ku Klux Klan, dressed in full Klan regalia, and lead by a Jackson Parish Sheriff's car, drove through the "Quarters." He stated that because of this incident, coupled with the fact that the caravan was lead by a Sheriff's Office vehicle, it was decided that the Deacons of Defense and Justice should be formed in order to protect the lives and property of those who lived in the "Quarters." He stated that the purpose of the Deacons of Defense and Justice is to protect the rights of all citizens, "black and white." He explained that the purpose of this organization was not to take the law into their own hands but the purpose was for civic improvement through negotiation and the protection of the rights of individuals through court action and legal means.

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Concerning weapons owned by members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, [REDACTED] advised that the newspaper article appearing in the New York Times and in the Newsweek magazine were not true or accurate. He related that the Deacons have no machine guns or other similar automatic weapons. He stated that the only weapons owned by Deacons were "house protection" weapons. He related that "house protection" weapons were ordinary rifles and pistols

On 8/3/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana

157-3290

by SA [REDACTED] and
SA [REDACTED] /mlnb7C ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 8/3/65

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

that one keeps to protect his home.

Concerning the membership of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, [REDACTED] related that PERCY L. BRADFORD was President, ERNEST THOMAS, Vice-President, CHARLIE WHITE, Secretary, and COSSEHA JACKSON, Treasurer. He stated that at the present time the Jonesboro Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice consists of about 25 active members. He related that there are numerous other members who do not take an active part in the meetings or other activities of the organization. [REDACTED] stated that to his knowledge the only other chapter of the Deacons was located in Bogalusa, Louisiana.

B. APPROX. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He stated that the initiation fee is \$10.00 and the dues are \$2.00 per month.

[REDACTED] advised that meetings of the Deacons of Defense and Justice are normally held every Tuesday night at the Masonic Lodge located on Leon Street, Quarters Section, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

At this time [REDACTED] furnished the following description of himself:

Name:	[REDACTED]
Sex:	Male
Race:	Negro

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date of Birth:
Hair:
Eyes:
Height:
Weight:
Social Security No.:

[REDACTED]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 8/17/65~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] stated that he is not a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, but he has attended some of their meetings to see what their aims are and the direction they are headed. He stated that if he likes the aims of the organization he may join it.

[REDACTED] stated that from his observations of the Deacons for Defense and Justice he feels they want to work with the law, and want to assist anyone being treated unjustly in a legal manner.

[REDACTED] stated that he felt that the national publicity concerning this organization is so much propaganda put out to fool the Klan. He advised that he knows nothing about any guns or firearms in the possession of the Deacons of Defense and Justice.

The following description was obtained by observation and interview:

Name:
Race:
Sex:
Height:
Weight:
Build:
Hair:
Complexion:
Eyes:
Scars & Marks:

[REDACTED]
Negro
Male

On 8/4/65 at Jonesboro, Louisiana

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
File # NO 157-3290

by SA [REDACTED] AND b7C
SA [REDACTED] mln

Date dictated 8/4/65

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

b7C

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Date 8/17/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] furnished the following information: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised he is presently a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice [REDACTED]. He stated that the Deacons was founded to give the Negroes protection in the community. This group has as its objective "Justice for all men no matter what their color."

[REDACTED] Negro areas to see that no churches or homes were bombed or burned. [REDACTED] patrolled these areas all last winter and that this was stopped a few months ago.

[REDACTED] stated the dues are \$2.00 per month but he refused to divulge the amount of the initiation fee. The Deacons do not furnish weapons to its members although most members own their own guns and usually keep them in their car or at home.

[REDACTED] He stated the Deacons do not have a source of weapons nor do they have any cache hidden anywhere to his knowledge.

[REDACTED] was reminded of the dangers of this group arming illegally and committing illegal acts.

[REDACTED] advised he does not know how many members are in the Deacons. The most men he observed at any meeting was between 50 and 75 and this was approximately three or four months ago. He advised PERCY LEE BRADFORD is the President,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 8/4/65

at Jonesboro, Louisiana

File # NO 157-3290

SA [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]

mln

Date dictated 8/6/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NO (157-3290)/mln

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HENRY AMOS is the Vice-President and ELMO JACOBS is a member of the Board of Directors.

[REDACTED] stated that to his knowledge the Deacons of Defense and Justice is a defensive organization. As such they will defend themselves or their fellow members to any degree necessary. The Deacons do not go out looking for trouble, but will not run from it if and when it comes.

b7C
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The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:
Date of birth:
Place of birth:
Sex:
Race:
Height:
Weight:
Eyes:
Hair:
Social Security:

Male
Negro

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

8/17/65

Date

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] advised he is presently a member of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) and has been a member since the organization was formed.

[REDACTED] He advised the prime objective of the Deacons is to see that everyone, no matter what their color, gets Justice. They make inquiries when they are advised of arrests of their members and they arrange for attorneys and attempt to see that the people get a fair trial.

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[REDACTED] advised the Deacons do not furnish weapons to their members, but that the majority of the members own their own weapons. He advised he knows of no source of weapons available to the Deacons. [REDACTED] advised the organization as such is a defensive type group and they do not go looking for trouble, but he stated if trouble comes to them they will protect themselves to any degree necessary.

[REDACTED] further stated the organization has no set dues and he knows of no fee which must be paid to get into the organization. He believes there are 18 to 25 active members in the Jonesboro Chapter. The Deacons also have chapters in Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana.

The dangers of members illegally arming themselves and committing illegal acts was brought to [REDACTED] attention.

The following description was obtained during

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8/5/65

at Jonesboro, Louisiana

File # NO 157-3290

SA [REDACTED]

and

SA [REDACTED]

/mln

Date dictated 8/8/65

- 30 -

CONFIDENTIAL

NO (157-3290)/mln

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interview and from observation:

Name:

Race:

Sex:

Height:

Weight:

Eyes:

Hair:

Date of birth:

Place of birth:

Employment:

Negro

Male

██████████ stated that ██████████ would
be able to furnish information concerning the
membership ██████████

CONFIDENTIAL

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☐ For your information: _____

- ☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LOUISIANA IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE HEADQUARTER
CHAPTER — JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

OF

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

IS A MEMBER OF D. D. J. COOPERATION

Chapter

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS — JONESBORO, LOUISIANA — Drawer B

President

Secretary

19.....	Local Dues	G. C. Dues	When Paid	Sec'y	19.....	Local Dues	G. C. Dues	When Paid	Sec'y
JAN.					JAN.				
FEB.					FEB.				
MARCH					MARCH				
APRIL					APRIL				
MAY					MAY				
JUNE					JUNE				
JULY					JULY				
AUGUST					AUGUST				
SEPT.					SEPT.				
OCTOBER					OCTOBER				
NOV.					NOV.				
DEC.					DEC.				

There is being set forth a reproduction of the official identification papers which is carried by members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice as furnished by [REDACTED]

b7C
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Date 8/5/65

[REDACTED] was advised of the identity and official capacity of interviewing Agents.

[REDACTED] stated the Deacons for Defense and Justice is an incorporated organization and has received a charter from the State of Louisiana. He said National Offices for the Deacons for Defense and Justice are located at Jonesboro, Louisiana. He stated (first name unknown) BRADFORD is the National President and HENRY AMOS is the National Vice President. Both BRADFORD and AMOS live in Jonesboro, Louisiana.

[REDACTED] stated the Deacons for Defense and Justice have a rule against divulging any information relating to the strength of membership, the activities of the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and the ownership of arms kept by the members of this organization. He said he, therefore, could not furnish any further information regarding the Deacons for Defense and Justice and any other information concerning this organization would have to be obtained from the National Offices in Jonesboro, Louisiana. He added that for members to give any other information would be "like cutting off your nose to spite your face."

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

36

On 8/5/65 at Bogalusa, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

by SAs [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] JJ Date dictated 8/5/65

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1~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Date 8/5/65

[REDACTED] was advised of the identity and official capacity of interviewing Agents.

At the outset of the interview [REDACTED] was advised that we wished to talk to him about the organization, Deacons for Defense and Justice. [REDACTED] said he would give no information at all regarding the organization, Deacons for Defense and Justice, nor would he admit being an officer or member of this organization. He said any information obtained concerning the organization would have to be given in the presence of the entire assembly of the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

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[REDACTED] reiterated that he would provide no information at all regarding this organization, its officers, members, activities, purpose or method of operation.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 8/5/65 at Bogalusa, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290

SAs [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]:jj Date dictated 8/5/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Date 8/4/65

SA [REDACTED] telephonically advised [REDACTED] that the Deacons for Defense and Justice originated in Jonesboro, Louisiana, with seven original members. He said ERNEST JOHNSON is the Regional Head for the Deacons for Defense and Justice. He stated that the Bogalusa Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice was chartered through the parent chapter at Jonesboro and that part of the dues collected from the members of the Bogalusa Chapter is supposed to go to the Jonesboro Chapter.

[REDACTED] advised that CHARLES SIMS is financial secretary for the BVL and is also head of the Bogalusa Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice.

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[REDACTED] further advised that ERNEST JOHNSON is presently in Northern California attempting to raise money for the Jonesboro area and that SIMS has stated he wishes to go back to Southern California and attempt to raise more money in that area.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~On 8/4/65at Bogalusa, LouisianaFile # NO 157-3290

by SA [REDACTED]

11

Date dictated 8/4/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NO 157-3290

MAK:mnw

1

[REDACTED] that ALBERT DAVIS, [REDACTED] (c)
Bogalusa, Louisiana, is the Treasurer and acting
Secretary for the Deacons of Defense and Justice; and that b1
[REDACTED] Bogalusa, and [REDACTED] b7C
[REDACTED] Bogalusa, are members of the b7D
Bogalusa Chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. (c)
[REDACTED] the Deacons of Defense and Justice are
presently trying to find a place and date for fire-arms
practice as in the past this training has been on an individual
basis. He further reported that the present cost of joining
the Deacons of Defense and Justice is \$10. and there is a
\$2. monthly dues assessment.

The organization outlawed automatic rifles but
automatic pistols are allowed. According to the informant,
the organization has obtained M-1's (not specified as
whether rifles or carbines) along with 30.0 rifles.

[REDACTED] furnished
the following information concerning Bogalusa Deacons of
Defense and Justice:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290

MAK/mnw

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The following is a partial list of members of the Bogalusa Deacons for Defense and Justice (DDJ):

CHARLES SIMS, President

ROYAN BURRIS, Vice-President

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It is believed that Bogalusa DDJ does not possess any machine guns, M-14 rifles, or grenades. purchased military surplus arms

These purchases are believed to be 30.06 rifles and side arms. The only other equipment presently known to be possessed by the Bogalusa DDJ are walkie talkies.

The Bogalusa DDJ is presently maintaining a curfew of one-half hour after Negro rallies in the Negro community of Bogalusa. Any Negro on the streets after the curfew is ordered to go to their homes immediately. The recognition signal when approaching DDJ members at night in a vehicle is to turn the vehicle's headlights off and on once.

- 40 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290

MAK/mnw

2

Some of the expenses of the Bogalusa DDJ are reimbursed by the Bogalusa Voters League (BVL) and for this reason CHARLES SIMS was made financial secretary for the BVL.

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ERNEST JOHNSON, also known as Chilly, president of the Jonesboro DDJ, is presently in Northern California attempting to raise money for the Jonesboro DDJ and is staying at [redacted] residence.

Negroes in Plaquemine, Louisiana, recently asked for help in forming a Plaquemine Chapter of the DDJ and on August 1, 1965, CHARLES SIMS and ROYAN BURRIS went to Plaquemine in order to help in this endeavor.

Monroe, Louisiana, and Ferriday, Louisiana, have also requested assistance in forming DDJ chapters.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290

MAK:mnw

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On June 10, 1965, [REDACTED] Negro male [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] indicated that a Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice had been formed in Homer, Louisiana. [REDACTED] indicated that the organization, exclusively composed of local Negro males, had originally been formed by Negroes in Bogalusa and Jonesboro, Louisiana, as a self-protection group. [REDACTED] continued to explain that the organization was active in areas where Civil Rights activity had either actually or was presumed to potentially precipitate violence against Negroes by local white segregationists.

[REDACTED] said that the specific purpose of the group was to arm themselves and to "meet force with force" in such instances as local white men employed force or "terror tactics" against Negroes. [REDACTED] was emphatic in stressing that the organization intended no aggressive or violent action against any individual or group, and that no member of the organization would employ any type of force unless such action was initiated against him first.

[REDACTED] furnished a list of Negro male individuals who are currently members of the Homer, Louisiana Chapter of the organization and the positions they occupy as follows:

George Dodd
Fred Lewis

Homer, Louisiana

President
Vice President
Secretary
Financial
Secretary
Treasurer
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member
Member

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290

MAK:mnw

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the following persons have now become members:

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b7C
b7D

He stated the organization has not purchased any weapons of any type and there are no plans in the immediate future to purchase weapons. He said the organization does not own any weapons of any kind, although individual members do own various types of hunting shotguns and rifles.

- 46 -

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MAK:mnw

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[redacted] advised the organization has not been active although several of the members have been meeting each Tuesday night at the Masonic Hall in Homer. He said there are usually 10 or 12 members in attendance. He said the group is waiting for someone from the Jonesboro, Louisiana, Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice to come to Homer to advise them as to what activity they are to undertake. He advised that until someone from Jonesboro explains how the organization works, there will be no activity of the Homer, Louisiana, chapter.

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[redacted] furnished the following information on August 3, 1965:

He is familiar with the Negroes who make up the Homer, Louisiana, Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. All of the members are long time residents of that parish and none of them have a record for violence. He has no information the organization is gathering firearms. He has not seen any activity from the organization until this time.

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CONFIDENTIAL

NO 157-3290

MAK:mnw

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The Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California, dated June 13, 1965, carried a story concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice in which the writer stated that the Deacons claimed that they had machine guns and hand grenades for use in racial warfare. ERNEST THOMAS, 32, of Jonesboro, who was described as an official and full-time organizer for the Deacons, according to this article, told newsmen that there were 50 to 55 chapters of the Deacons in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and fund-raising units were being established in San Francisco, New York, and other large cities.

This article further stated that at interviews with members of the Deacons, indications were made that this group was armed with pistols and rifles, and THOMAS stated, "We have contacts in Chicago and Houston for automatic weapons--for .50 caliber and .30 caliber." THOMAS additionally stated that they had machine guns and hand grenades for use in racial strife.

Investigations conducted at Chicago and Houston have not developed any information that would indicate that any large quantity of weapons has been sold to any individuals or group in the Jonesboro, Bogalusa, or New Orleans area of Louisiana.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NO 157-3290

MAK:mnw

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b1

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It is to be noted that the Fox and Wolf Hunt Club is affiliated with the Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM). A characterization of RAM is contained in the appendix section of this report.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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APPENDIX

REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT (RAM)

On November 3, 1964, a source made available a document entitled, "The Revolutionary Action Movement Manifesto", the document having been obtained by the source from an individual known to be a member of RAM.

This document stated, in part, that RAM was officially organized in the Winter of 1963, by Afro-Americans who support the revolutionary objectives of ROBERT F. WILLIAMS, now residing in Cuba, and his concept of organized violence to achieve the liberation of the Afro-American people in the United States. This Manifesto reflected that RAM had oriented its program to one of education and political revolution and the organization of a "black" political party with revolutionary objectives, having recognized the need for a "black revolution" that could and would seize power. RAM philosophy is described in this document as one of revolutionary nationalism, that is, one involving the struggles of the non-white races of the world against exploitation and enslavement by the white capitalist and imperialist nations.

Regarding WILLIAMS, above, it should be noted that on August 28, 1961, a Federal warrant was issued at Charlotte, North Carolina, charging him with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution for the Crime of Kidnapping. Subsequent to the issuance of this warrant, WILLIAMS fled the United States to Cuba, where he now publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Crusader" from Havana.

On November 16, 1965, a second source advised that he learned recently from a RAM member that the organization was begun in Detroit, Michigan, largely under the impetus of DON FREEMAN, Cleveland, Ohio, described as the "Father" of RAM and referred to as RAM's "Black Stalin". FREEMAN now serves as RAM Chairman, with MAXWELL STANFORD, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serving RAM as Field Chairman. This second source advised that there is no formal headquarters, as such, for RAM at present, but that headquarters are, in effect, with FREEMAN since he plays a dominant role in the leadership and directs the policies and activities of the organization.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese Communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely non-white in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its primary allegiance to the "Bandung World", that is, the non-white races of the world, rather than to any national entity, as such.

To date, according to the second source, in November, 1964, RAM has organized units and membership in several of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi River, and the organization is currently active, attempting to recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.

- 51* -

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 19 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

FBI WASH DC

FBI SANANTON

615 PM CST 8/19/65 URGENT LAL

TO DIRECTOR (157-2466)

FROM SAN ANTONIO (157-413)

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS - RM

RE SAN ANTONIO AIRTEL AUGUST NINE LAST.

[REDACTED] UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, TEXAS, ADVISED INSTANT DATE THAT UNIDENTIFIED
INDIVIDUAL PLACED A LARGE NUMBER OF PLACARDS AT VARIOUS POINTS ON
UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, WHICH PLACARDS READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE
COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS PRESENTS: MARK KLEIN SPEAKING ON
ARMED SELF DEFENSE, THE NEXT STAGE IN THE NEGRO STRUGGLE. UNIVERSITY
YMCA, THURSDAY, AUGUST NINETEEN, EIGHT P.M., ADMISSION FREE. UNQUOTE

[REDACTED] AUSTIN AWARE OF MEETING. MATTER BEING FOLLOWED AND
BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED. LHM FOLLOWS.

END

WA JRL

FBI WASH DC

TU CLR P

3 AUG 30 1965

REC-76 18 AUG 23 1965

EX 105

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gpl/fk

1 V copy TT sent to
No by 0-7 8/20/65
JLM: 69

100-850818

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 20 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI SANANTON

8:27 PM 8/19/65 URGENT JEH

TO DIRECTOR /157-2466/

FROM SAN ANTONIO /157-413/

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS. RACIAL MATTER.

RE SAN ANTONIO TEL TODAY.

MEETING HELD AS SCHEDULED, NO INCIDENTS, NO ARRESTS, LHM FOLLOWS.

END AND ACK PLS.

... JXM

FBI WASH DC

CLRP

REC-76

EX-100

157-2466-43

18 AUG 23 1965

100808RB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1824/jk

51 AUG 1965

F B

Date: Aug. 20, 1965

Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413)
RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM

Re San Antonio teletype dated 8/19/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM on captioned matter suitable for dissemination.

Copies of the LHM have been disseminated locally to OSI, ONI, 112th INTC and two copies to Secret Service.

The Special Agent at Austin, Texas, who received the information from _____, as set out in attached LHM, is _____

LEADS

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

At Austin, Texas

Will follow and report the results of the meeting scheduled at the University YMCA, August 19, 1965.

E. C. Wick

ENCLOSURE

3 Bureau (Enc. 8)

6 San Antonio

JJC:JMW

(9)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;

DEPT: ISD, CRD, P

DATE FORW: 8/23/65

HOW FORW: RLS

BY: JLM: C.J.

1cc & cc LHM

808 RB

Approved:

55 AUG 31 1965

Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-17-80 BY SP182/8



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
San Antonio, Texas
August 20, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

On August 19, 1965, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] University of Texas, Austin, Texas, advised a Special Agent of
the FBI at Austin, Texas, that an unidentified individual had placed a large
number of placards at various points on the university campus some time
around 3:00 P. M., August 19, 1965. [REDACTED] stated the placards were
removed upon being discovered.

[REDACTED] stated the placards are described as 14" x 24" and read
as follows:

"The Committee to aid the Deacons present: MARK KLEIN
speaking on armed self-defense, the next stage in the Negro
struggle, University YMCA, Thursday, August 19, 8:00 P.M.,
admission free."

On August 8, 1965, KLEIN described "The Deacons" as an armed
Negro self-defense group."

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED], as well as the
[REDACTED] have been informed regarding these placards and
the proposed meeting scheduled at the University YMCA, August 19, 1965,
at 8:00 P. M.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI, it is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its
contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gph/jk

ENCLOSURE

FBI

Date: 8/21/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Airtel

Airmail

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : Director, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, Albany (157-163) RUC

RE : DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

OO: New Orleans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gth/jk

Re San Antonio airtel to Bureau 8/9/65.

Following information made available on 8/19/65, by

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- cc: (3) - Bureau (RM)
3 - San Antonio (Encl.1) (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
4 - Albany
(1 - 157-163)
(1 - 105-6131)
(1 - 100-19350)
(1 - 100-19317)

C. C. Wick

CWR/bsp
(12)

REC-31
EX-100

4 AUG 23 1965

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

SUBV. CONTROL
Per _____

51 AUG 20 1965

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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☐ For your information: _____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 8/23/65

FROM : SAC, MOBILE (157-1017)(RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM
(OO: New Orleans)

Reference is made to Bureau airtel, 7/19/65.

Investigation has been conducted in the Mobile Division consisting of contact with racial informants and sources, Negro liaison sources, logical criminal informants and appropriate law enforcement officials. No information has been developed which would indicate the existence of any chapter of subject organization in this Division.

Inasmuch as all of the contacts made are negative, no report is being submitted but the negative contacts are reflected in the Mobile file.

Mobile Agents have all been alerted to the possible formation of subject group in this Division and if any such information is received, it will be promptly brought to the attention of the Bureau and New Orleans.

2 - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290)(RM)
1 - Mobile
JTB:gre
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SPI gpl/jr

REC 2715 7-2466-46

15 25 1965

EX-101

0 AUG 31 1965 145

INT. SEC.

FBI

Date: 8/14/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-5290)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a
letterhead memorandum captioned " [REDACTED] JONESBORO,
LOUISIANA." Copies of this LHM being furnished to Chicago,
Detroit, and New York for information.

Copies of this LHM are being disseminated to ICG
and Secret Service, New Orleans.

O-17 to NO

Copy to 8/23/65

Date 8/23/65

By JLM:CS

Remarks Omission of "Prop. of FBI"

Statement on LHM

- 3 - Bureau (Encls 8)
1 - Chicago (157-397) (Encl. 1) (Info)
1 - Detroit (157-835) (Encl. 1) (Info)
1 - New York (157-927) (Encl. 1) (Info)
2 - New Orleans

RDW:sab

(8)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.

DEPT: ISD, CRD, [REDACTED]

DATE FORW: 8/23/65

HOW FORW: AS

BY: JLM:CS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-8 BY SP18/1/14

1cc & cc LHM

808 RB

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

70 SEP 2 1965

EX-101
AUG 21 1965
SUBV. CONTROL

Ref. (14)
[Signature]

157-2466-47

[Signature]
[Signature]
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b7
MSB



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

New Orleans, Louisiana
August 14, 1985

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S)
DATE 8/21/85

JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

The following information has been obtained from
the files of the New Orleans Office in connection with various
civil rights and racial investigations which have been
conducted:

[Redacted vertical text]

[Large redacted block of text]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP182d/fh 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2-2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-14-85

152-2466-47

ENCLOSURE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

On January 5, 1965, the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) was reported to be organized and Earnest Thomas was reported to serve this organization as a group leader.

On February 21, 1965, Earnest Thomas appeared at a meeting of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) workers and Negro leaders at Bogalusa, Louisiana, to discuss organization of the DDJ at Bogalusa.

On March 5, 1965, a charter was granted to the DDJ at Monroe, Louisiana, reflecting Earnest Thomas as vice president of this organization, registered agent, and member of the board of directors.

On March 20, 1965, [redacted] advised his office had been aware of the DDJ organization at Jonesboro for the past six months.


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 claimed the DDJ was never meant to be anything other than defensive to prevent Klan groups and others from invading the Negro section and perpetrating lawlessness on the Negroes. He said their weapons were of the type ~~which~~ commonly used in homes in the area.

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CONFIDENTIAL

On July 2, 1965, according to the newspaper States-Item of New Orleans, Louisiana, on that date, Earnest Thomas was a speaker at the annual convention of CORE at Durham, North Carolina, and that Thomas was one of the speakers along with James Farmer, Kenneth X, a Black Muslim leader from Durham, and Bayard Rustin of New York City who organized the civil rights march on Washington in 1963. It was reported that Thomas in his speech attacked the idea of non-violence. He said the Deacons was created to inform the klan that Negroes on the whole are not non-violent. Thomas was supported in this attitude by another speaker, Dr. Lonnie X, a Black Muslim minister of Washington, D.C., who also spoke, saying "It is better to spend 30 seconds in the glory of manhood than a 1,000 years in the news."

A characterization of the Nation of Islam is attached hereto in the appendix section.

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) and (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.
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☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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12 NATION OF ISLAM, formerly
13 referred to as the Muslim
14 Cult of Islam, also known as
15 Muhammad's Temples of Islam

16 NATION OF ISLAM
17

18 In January, 1957, a source advised Elijah Muhammad
19 -has described his organization on a nationwide basis as the
20 "Nation of Islam" (NOI) and "Muhammad's Temples of Islam".
21

22 On May 8, 1964, a second source advised Elijah
23 Muhammad is the national leader of the NOI; Muhammad's Temple
24 of Islam No. 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois,
25 is the national headquarters of the NOI; and in mid-1960,
26 Muhammad and other NOI officilas, when referring to Muhammad's
27 organization on a nationwide basis, commenced using either
28 "Mosque" or "Temple" when mentioning one of "Muhammad's Temples
29 of Islam."
30

31 The NOI is an all-Negro organization which was
32 originally organized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan. Muhammad
33 claims to have been selected by Allah, the Supreme Being,
34 to lead the so-called Negro race out of salvery in the wilderness
35 of North America by establishing an independent black nation in
36 the United States. Members following Muhammad's teachings and
37 his interpretation of the "Koran" believe there is no such thing
38 as a Negro; that the so-called Negroes are slaves of the white
39 race, referred to as "white devils," in the United States; and
40 that the white race, because of its exploitation of the so-called
41 Negroes, must and will be destroyed in the approaching "War of
42 Armageddon."
43

44 In the past, officials and members of the NOI,
45 including Muhammad, have refused to register under the provisions
46 of the Selective Service Acts and have declared that members
47 owe no allegiance to the United States.
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On May 5, 1958, the first source advised Muhammad had, upon advice of legal counsel, tempered his personal statements and instructions to his ministers concerning the principles of his organization in order to avoid possible prosecution by the United States Government; however, he did not indicate any fundamental changes in the teachings of his organization.

On May 7, 1964, a third source advised Muhammad had, early in July, 1958, decided to de-emphasize the religious aspects of the teachings of Islam and to stress the economic benefits to be derived by those Negroes who joined the NOI. This policy change, according to Muhammad, would help him acquire additional followers and create more interest in his programs.

A P P E N D I X

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APPENDIX

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18 This second source, in September, 1964, advised that
19 RAM is dedicated to the overthrow of the capitalist system
20 in the United States, by violence if necessary, and to its
21 replacement by a socialistic system oriented toward the Chinese
22 Communist interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. RAM is entirely
23 non-white in membership, clandestine in nature, and owes its
24 primary allegiance to the "Bandung World", that is, the non-white
25 races of the world, rather than to any national entity, as such.

26 To date, according to the second source, in
27 November, 1964, RAM has organized units and membership in several
28 of the larger cities in the United States east of the Mississippi
29 River, and the organization is currently active, attempting to
30 recruit new members and expand its sphere of influence.
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CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 8/20/65

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413)

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM 157-2466

Transmitted herewith are eight copies of LHM reflecting results of the meeting held at Austin, Texas, at 8 p.m. on 8/19/65 at the University YMCA, Austin, Texas.

One copy each is being disseminated locally to OSI, ONI, 112th INTC, and two to Secret Service.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gch/fv

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau
2 - San Antonio
JCK/fes
(5)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. GEN.;

DEPT: ISD, CRD

DATE FORW: 8/23/65

HOW FORW: RIS

BY: JLM: GJ

LHM

RB

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

157-2466-48

REC-50

EX 105

AUG 26 1965

76 SEP 1 1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

San Antonio, Texas
August 20, 1965

The Committee to Aid the Deacons

[REDACTED] advised the scheduled meeting of the Committee to Aid the Deacons was begun at 8 p.m. at the University YMCA, Austin, Texas, on August 19, 1965, with approximately thirty people present. This group was predominately white and only one Negro girl who is a student at the University of Texas was present.

PAUL PIPKIN, member of the Students for a Democratic Society, introduced MARK KLEIN as program speaker.

From 8 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m. KLEIN voiced Communistic propaganda and read from numerous books their contents all favorable to Communism. KLEIN also advocated that Negroes should all arm themselves and organize into groups who could then protect themselves against the Ku Klux Klan, racists, and law enforcement officers who attack peaceful demonstrations.

KLEIN specifically recommended that each Negro in addition to having the necessary firearms to defend his home, should have a loaded rifle and pistol in his car at all times and be ready "to defend the Negroes."

Following KLEIN's address, approximately one hour question and answer period followed. During this time, KLEIN was "hard put" to justify his position that armed deacons for defense and justice would not lead to positive open clashes between whites and Negroes. During this session, KLEIN defined his personal position as a "revolutionary socialist."

The meeting was adjourned just prior to 10 p.m. in order that KLEIN could watch the 10 p.m. TV news and determine if the meeting was on local television.

There were no incidents and no arrests were made.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gpy/jk

PROPERTY OF THE FBI

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

157-2466-48

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9 The Committee to Aid the Deacons
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20 [REDACTED] University of Texas, informed that
21 the Committee to Aid the Deacons was not an approved University
22 of Texas campus organization.
23
24

25 [REDACTED] University of Texas, Austin,
26 Texas, on November 2, 1964, advised:
27

28 Students for a Democratic Society is an approved
29 organization of the University of Texas campus. He described
30 it as "a political study and action organization. The
31 purpose of the organization is to work toward a more democratic
32 society." He described it as "an educational and social action
33 organization that seeks to promote the active participation
34 of students toward construction of a social order that is free
35 from poverty, ignorance, war, exploitations, and inhumanity of
36 man to man."
37

38 [REDACTED] stated membership is open to students,
39 faculty, and others who share the commitments of the organization
40 to democracy as a means and as a social goal.
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FBI

Date: 8/25/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, Jackson (157-3465) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, aka
RACIAL MATTERS

Re report of SA [REDACTED] dated 8/17/65 at New Orleans.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of an LHM and for New Orleans are two copies of same. One copy each is being sent to INTC, OSI, ONI, and Secret Service. [REDACTED] will also be advised of the developments in this matter.

[REDACTED]

LEADS:

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

- ③ - Bureau (157-2466) (Enc 8) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc 2) (RM)
- 5 - Jackson (157-3465)

LHM (1 - 100- [REDACTED])
(1 - 157-452)

JOI/gjm (10) AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;
DEPT: ISD, CRD

DATE FORW: 8/30/65
HOW FORW: [REDACTED]
BY: [REDACTED]

C.C. Wick

Approved: [REDACTED]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP182/H 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-25-85

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

8 AUG 27 1965

[REDACTED]

JN 157-3465

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

At Bogalusa, Louisiana

[REDACTED] b1 (C)

At Jonesboro, Louisiana

Will handle lead as set forth under Bogalusa.

JACKSON DIVISION

At Jackson, Mississippi

Will maintain contact with sources to obtain background concerning organization of Mississippi chapter. Will attempt to identify all participants and activities as well as arms acquired.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Jackson, Mississippi

August 25, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE, INC.
RACIAL MATTERS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. APPROX.

[REDACTED]

B. APPROX.

[REDACTED]

B. APPROX.

[REDACTED]

B. APPROX.

[REDACTED]

B. APPROX.

[REDACTED]

B. APPROX.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. APPROX.

[REDACTED] (c)

NOT CONTAINED

IS UNCLASSIFIED

EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN

OTHERWISE

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/SPH/jr 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-25-85

ENCLOSURE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(D) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
 X FOR THIS PAGE X
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 25 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI SANANTON

XXX339PM CST URGENT 8/25/65 MRH

DIRECTOR 157-2466

FROM SAN ANTONIO 157 413

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS. RM.

ADVISED THE ABOVE COMMITTEE WILL MEET

AT EIGHT P.M., AUGUST TWENTY-FIVE AT THE COMMUNITY

CENTER, ONE ONE NINE TWO ANGELINA STREET, LOCATED IN THE

NEGRO SECTION OF AUSTIN, TEXAS. MARK KLEIN WILL SPEAK ON

"THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DEACONS". RESULTS OF THIS MEETING WILL

BE FURNISHED THE BUREAU.

END

VA...L BMS

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1gh/fv

REC- 50

EX-101

9 AUG 30 1965

51 SEP 2 1965

Bgndru

DEACONS COUNSEL MISSISSIPPI GROUP

Defense Steps Explained by
Negroes From Louisiana

By ROY REED

Special to The New York Times

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 29

Several members of the Deacons for Defense and Justice came from Louisiana today to tell Mississippi Negroes and civil rights workers how to organize for defense against white terrorism.

Deacons came in response to a buildup of racial tension in Mississippi. Several acts of violence have occurred during the last week.

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic party, which is militantly pro-civil rights and predominantly Negro, sponsored a forum in Jackson this afternoon for dissemination of information on the Deacons. The Deacons are a loosely organized defense league formed last year in Louisiana to protect Negroes against marauding and harassing whites. Louisiana has several chapters.

The Rev. Ed King, a teacher at predominantly Negro Tougaloo College at Jackson and a member of the executive committee of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party, said the party was not taking a stand on the Deacons but was simply providing an opportunity for people to learn more about them.

Bogalusa Delegation

Mississippi Negroes are "very interested" in the Deacons at the moment, he said.

Charles Sims, the president of the Deacons at Bogalusa, led a delegation of 10 from that recently embattled town to discuss organized defense at the Jackson meeting.

Mr. Sims walked into the Negro Masonic Hall on Lynch Street with his coat on his arm, in deference to the 99-degree weather, and was greeted warmly by several white and Negro civil rights leaders.

Another delegation of Deacons met with Negroes at Natchez today.

Negroes there have been angry and edgy since a bomb exploded in the car of George Metcalfe, president of the Natchez branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on Friday and injured him seriously.

Young Negroes have gathered on the streets the last two nights and shouted threats at passing white motorists. A few cars, including police cars, have been hit by bricks, bottles and tomatoes.

Negroes blame the Ku Klux Klan for most of the violence at Natchez and elsewhere in Mississippi.

Evers V. Alan
Charles E. of Jackson, state secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. who hurried to Natchez and helped prevent an antiwhite outbreak after the bombing, said today:

"I want to say this to the Ku Klux Klan: Stay out of the Negro section at night. We're going to protect ourselves."

He had warned earlier that Negroes were armed heavily at Natchez and were ready to start using guns to stop harassment and terrorism.

A member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee said at Jackson that Deacons were meeting today with Negroes in at least two other Mississippi towns, Greenville, 150 miles up the Mississippi River from Natchez, and Columbia, in the south-central part of the state.

The week of violence and tension began last Sunday night when the Rev. Donald Thompson, a white Unitarian minister who has been active in civil rights work, was gunned down and seriously wounded by a shotgun attack outside his apartment house.

Mr. Thompson was shot two days after a shotgun attack in Lowndes County, Ala., killed a white Episcopal seminarian and critically wounded a white Roman Catholic priest.

A group of religious leaders at Jackson took a full page advertisement in the Sunday newspaper here today and denounced the attack on Mr. Thompson.

A member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party reported last night that three crosses were burned earlier in the evening at Philadelphia, Miss. He said gunfire had been reported near a house where civil rights workers were staying.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Rosen
Trotter
Mark

The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star _____
New York Herald Tribune _____
New York Journal-American _____
New York Daily News _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times 18 C
The Baltimore Sun _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Date 8-30-65

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gph/HV

File

157-2466

157-2466-A

NOT RECORDED

167 SEP 2 1965

57 SEP 2 1965

F B I

Date: 8/27/65

Transmit the following in _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTELAIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
aka
RACIAL MATTERS

ReJNairtel 8/25/65. (U)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF
DATE 8/31/80

[REDACTED] SIMS allegedly president and (C)
BURRIS, vice-president of chapter at Bogalusa.

[REDACTED] (C)

3-Bureau (RM)
2-New Orleans (157-3290) (RM)
3-Jackson

(I- 157-452)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP/SPK/fh 9-17-82
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.8 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-27-85

JOI:ish
(8)

REC- 50

AUG 30 1965

Approved: [Signature]

Sent

M

Per

Special Agent in Charge

51 SEP 2 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b1
b7C
b7D

JN 157-3465

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LEAD

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION

AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA, AND JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

[REDACTED] b1
[REDACTED] (c)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8/27/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Mr. Donohue
1 - Mr. Bates

airtel

To: SAC, New York [REDACTED]

From: Director, FBI [REDACTED] (c)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP (S) OF
DATE 8/27/65

ReNYtel to the Bureau 8/26/65 and Bureau telephone call
to New York 8/27/65. (u)

[REDACTED] (c)

- 1 - 157-2466 (Deacons of Defense and Justice)
- 1 - 100-442684 (Revolutionary Action Movement)
- 1 - 157-3022 (Organization for Black Power)
- 1 - M. F. Row (Room 6221 IB)

NOTE:

[REDACTED] (c)

RFB:deh
(9)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gph/fh 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-27-85

DUPLICATE YELLOW

57-2466-
NOT RECORDED
128 AUG 31 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ORIGINAL FILED IN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM : SAC, CHARLOTTE (157-882) (RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS
(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

DATE: 8/27/65

Re Bureau airtel, 7/19/65. (U)

Informants and sources of the Charlotte Office contacted concerning captioned organization have advised they have no information relative to the Deacons of Defense and Justice or indicating that any chapters of this organization have been or are being formed.

The Bureau and New Orleans will be promptly advised upon receipt of any pertinent information concerning captioned organization.

② - Bureau (RM)
2 - New Orleans (RM)
1 - Charlotte
CFW:jms
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gpl/jt

EX-107

REC-65

AUG 31 1965

INT. SEC.
INT. SEC.

SEP 7 1965

FBI

Date: 8/26/65

- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. Felt
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413)
RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight copies of LHM on captioned matter suitable for dissemination. Copies of the LHM have been disseminated locally to OSI, ONI, 112th INTC, and two copies to Secret Service.

The Special Agent who received the information from _____ as set out in attached LHM is _____

Copy to New Orleans
by routing slip for
☒ info ☐ action
date 8/30/65
by J.M.C.

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.
DEPT: ISD, CRD, ~~ISD~~
DATE FORW: 8/30/65
HOW FORW: ~~AS~~
BY: J.M.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1821/W

O-17 to N.O.
Copy to _____
Date 8/30/65
By J.M.C.

Remarks: Title incorrectly carried.
Character omitted & copies not
furnished to New Orleans - OO.
Ref. omitted.

3 - Bureau
1 - San Antonio
JCK/fes
(4)

REC 4

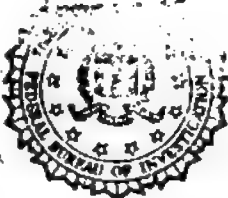
157-2466-5
14 AUG 30 1965

G. C. Wick

50 SEP 8 1965

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Antonio, Texas
August 26, 1965

RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

On August 25, 1965, [REDACTED] advised a Special Agent of the FBI at Austin, Texas, that a meeting would be held by the Committee to Aid the Deacons beginning at 8 p.m. on August 25, 1965.

This meeting is to be held at the Community Center located 1192 Angelina Street, which is located in the Negro section of East Austin, Texas.

The listed speaker for this meeting is MARK KLEIN and his topic will be "The Truth About the Deacons".

On August 8, 1965, KLEIN described the "Deacons" as an armed Negro self defense group.

On August 26, 1965, [REDACTED] advised a Special Agent of the FBI at Austin, Texas, that the above Committee to Aid the Deacons met at 8 p.m., August 25, 1965, at the Community Center, 1192 Angelina Street, Austin, Texas.

This address is in east Austin and in the Negro section of Austin, Texas.

There were sixteen people in attendance, nine of which were Negro and seven whites.

MARK KLEIN was the speaker at this meeting and his publicized speech as reflected by more than 2,000 circulars distributed throughout Austin, Texas, on August 25, 1965, advertising this meeting was "The Truth About the Deacons".

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP184/fv

157-165-3

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9 THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

12 KLEIN practically repeated the same discussion he
13 had previously given at the University YMCA on the night of
14 August 19, 1965. KLEIN again advocated the Communist party
15 line, read excerpts from various pamphlets and books, all of
16 which were favorable to Communism. KLEIN again urged all
17 Negroes to organize into groups and to arm themselves for
18 their "own protection."

19
20 The meeting adjourned shortly before 10 p.m.
21 without incident.

22
23 KLEIN voiced his disappointment at the small turnout
24 in view of the publicity this meeting had been given.

25
26
27 The August 8, 1965, issue of the San Antonio
28 Light, a daily newspaper in San Antonio, Texas,
29 carried an article stating that MARK KLEIN, a
30 Cornell University student, is responsible for
31 the formation of the Committee to Aid the Deacons,
32 the purpose of which is to aid "the Deacons for
33 defense and justice." KLEIN described the "Deacons"
34 as "an armed Negro self defense group."

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48 This document contains neither recommendations nor
49 conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is
50 loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be
51 distributed outside your agency.
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FBI

Date: 8/24/65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (157-1063)(C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP18/H 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2-2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-24-85

APPEARANCE OF ROBERT HICKS,
VICE-PRESIDENT, BOGALUSA (LA.)
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
SPONSORED BY GROUP ON ADVANCED
LEADERSHIP (GOAL), 8/22/65;
DETROIT, MICH.
RACIAL MATTERS

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S) 8/17/80

Remyairtel with LHM dated 8/12/65

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead
memorandum. Two copies of the LHM are being furnished
the New Orleans Office.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2 and two copies being
furnished U.S. Secret Service, both Detroit, Mich.

[REDACTED] (C) b1
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been apprised b7D
of contents of the LHM.

LHM being classified "Confidential" since data furnished
by the source utilized could reasonably result in the
identification of a confidential informant of continuing
value and compromise effectiveness thereof.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
- 2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2)
- 3 - Detroit
- 1 - 157-706 (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)

REC 157-2466-54

14 AUG 25 1965

FJP:sal AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.,

DEPT: ISD, CRD,

DATE FORW: 8/27/65

HOW FORW: RIS

BY: J. M. [REDACTED]

Approved:

50 SEP 8 1965

Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

M

Per

3
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7 Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
8 Bogalusa Deacons for Defense
9 and Justice Sponsored by GOAL

CONFIDENTIAL

12 Source advised that other speakers at this affair
13 were Congressmen Conyers and Diggs. According to the
14 source, Mr. Conyers stated he did not believe in violence
15 but felt a man was less than a man if he would not defend
16 himself, his property and his family. He said it was the
17 constitutional right of every American to "take up arms in
18 self-defense" if law enforcement agencies failed to provide
19 said defense. Conyers spoke of police brutality in Detroit
20 and said it had long been an issue with Negroes. He said
21 Negroes must register and vote to defend the bigots who
22 constantly support police brutality and deny the Negroes
23 their basic rights. He said the Watts incident was a war
24 between the "haves and the have nots". He said it was
25 nothing but a class war fought by people who live in ghettos
26 without jobs and decent houses. He stated "Hear me Mr.
27 President, you had better take the money you are spending in
28 Vietnam to fight an uncalled for war and spend it here on
29 the big city slums or else you will have more class wars".

30
31 Conyers talked of the registrars presently in the
32 South as being inadequate and he stated he would see the
33 U.S. Attorney General on Monday and advise him that they
34 will not settle for anything less than a registrar in
35 every county in the South.

36
37 According to the source, Congressman Diggs stated
38 he had heard of the Deacons for Defense and Justice in
39 Louisiana and acknowledged that various situations in the
40 civil rights movement called for new techniques and
41 approaches. Mr. Diggs said he had talked with U.S. Attorney
42 General Katzenbach on Friday and voiced dissatisfaction
43 with the number of voting registrars presently supervising
44 voting registrations in the South. He indicated his pleasure
45 at seeing so many persons present at this dinner.

46
47 Among other speakers at this affair, according to
48 the source, were Robert Hicks, President of the Voters
49 League in Bogalusa and a charter member of the Deacons
50 for Defense and Justice, and Charles Sims, another member
51 of the Deacons from Bogalusa.

52
53 According to the source, Mr. Hicks related the
54 experiences and background of the civil rights struggle in

56
57
58 CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
Bogalusa Deacons for Defense
and Justice Sponsored by GOAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Louisiana. He said the Deacons came into existence because the police of Bogalusa simply refused to protect Negroes and the whites who were trying to help. He said several northern white university students had come to Bogalusa to help them organize. He said the Deacons came about because one night the sheriff had appeared at his home and demanded that they turn over to the Klan the young white students who were in Bogalusa helping them. He said the police were ordered out of the home and when the Klan appeared and fired into the house they, the Deacons, returned the fire and that is how they came into existence. He said the Governor of Louisiana signed the charter legalizing the existence of the Deacons.

Hicks said the Negroes plight in Bogalusa was helped when the Klan refused to let Congressman Brooks Hays of Arkansas appear there. Hicks said that white persons from all over the country wrote letters of disapproval citing the issue of free speech. Consequently, the political leaders of the city declared an all Negro day which permitted the use of all facilities without discrimination. Hicks praised the efforts of Mr. John Doar, Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, and he commented that Mr. Doar had done much to help. Hicks said that their cause was also helped by the presence of 50 FBI agents. Hicks commented that one of the agents was taking pictures and a Klansman attacked him. Hicks said the Klansman was immediately arrested and later tried and sent to a Federal prison and that quieted the Klan for a while. Hicks said he looked forward to the day when whites and Negroes could live in peace together. He said he was disappointed by things in the North because he thought there was a different atmosphere here.

According to the source, Mr. Sims mentioned in his speech much of the same material which had been stated by Robert Hicks. Sims spoke of future harmony among the races and of the day when the whites and the Negroes could live peaceably together. He said the white man respects three things, namely: (1) money; (2) the vote, because he controls everything that way; and (3) power or force. He said white people have never hesitated to go to war when their freedom was in jeopardy.

CONFIDENTIAL

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8 Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
9 Bogalusa Deacons for Defense
10 and Justice Sponsored by GOAL

CONFIDENTIAL

11
12 He said the Deacons intend to fight until they have the
13 "whole hog" as they have "backed up to the river and
14 will either drown or fight".
15

16 Source advised that \$509.00 was contributed during
17 this affair to the cause of the Deacons in Louisiana.
18 Source said this money was presented to Robert Hicks on
19 the stage at this affair as soon as it had been counted.
20 According to the source, Hicks and Sims stated they had
21 to catch a plane back to Louisiana that same evening.
22

23 This document contains neither recommendations
24 nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the
25 FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents
26 are not to be distributed outside your agency.
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CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date: 8/28/65

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Transmit the following in _____

AIRTEL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
(Priority or Method of Handling)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-413) (P)
RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM

Copies of this LHM are being disseminated
locally to OSI, ONI, INTC, and U. S. Secret Service.

Two copies of LHM are being furnished Houston
and San Francisco for information.

1 copy AT + LHM to NO
8/31/65 by 0-7
JLM: C-9.

- ③ - Bureau (Enc.8) (RM) ENCLOSURE
2 - Houston (Enc.2) (RM)
2 - San Francisco (Enc.2) (RM)
7 - San Antonio (c) b1
(2 - 157-413) [REDACTED] (1-66-1620) (1-157-310)
(1 - 157-941 Sub 2) (1-157-414)

JCK/dte
(14)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/spd/fv 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-28-85

D. C. Wick

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SER. 6
DEPT: ISD, CRD, RAO

DATE FORW: 8-31-65
HOW FORW: R/S
BY: [Signature]

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

51 SEP 13 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

San Antonio, Texas

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

August 28, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ STATE AGENCIES

6655 17
8/31/65

THE COMMITTEE TO AID
THE DEACONS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

[REDACTED] (C) Austin, Texas

[REDACTED] (C)

[REDACTED] (C) b1

[REDACTED] (C)

[REDACTED] (C)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpd/fk 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-28-65

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE 1-7-24104.55

THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

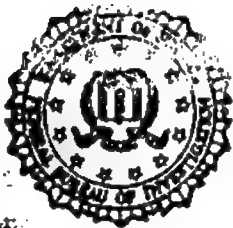
[REDACTED] b1

(C)

The August 8, 1965, issue of the San Antonio Light, a daily newspaper in San Antonio, Texas, carried an article datelined Austin, Texas, stating that Mark Klein, a Cornell University student, is responsible for the formation of the Committee to Aid the Deacons, the purpose of which is to aid "the Deacons for defense and justice". Klein described the "Deacons" as "an armed Negro self defense group".

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

San Antonio, Texas

August 28, 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Title	THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
Character	
Reference	San Antonio memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 2
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FBI WASH DC

5MSG

FBI BIRMGHAM

9PM CST URGENT 9-2-65 HEP

TO DIRECTOR (157-2466)

FROM BIRMINGHAM (157-1446) 1P

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, AKA. RM. OO NEW ORLEANS.

U. S. DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY BRIAN LANSBERG ADVISED BIRMINGHAM
OFFICE HE HAD RECENTLY SPOKEN WITH A [REDACTED] IN EUTAW,
ALA. [REDACTED] REPORTEDLY INFORMED LANSBERG THAT THE DEACONS OF
DEFENSE HAD BEEN ORGANIZED IN EUTAW, ALA., IN ORDER TO PROTECT
THEMSELVES. EFFORTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CONCERNING ABOVE. INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED IN ORDER
TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER CAPTIONED GROUP HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN ALABAMA.
LHM FOLLOWS.

AIR MAIL COPY FURNISHED NEW ORLEANS.

END

REC-66

157-2466-5

SEP 8 1965

EX 105

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP182/10

7 SEP 9 1965

FBI

Date: 9/3/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL - REGISTERED

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-1446) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,
AKA.
RM

(OO: NEW ORLEANS)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gch/fv

Re Birmingham teletype, 9/2/65.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are an original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum containing information indicating that a chapter of captioned organization may possibly have been formed at Eutaw, Alabama.

New Orleans is being furnished copies of instant letterhead memorandum since it is office of origin in captioned matter.

Copies of this letterhead memorandum are being disseminated locally to Military Intelligence Agencies and Secret Service, Birmingham.

Investigation is currently being conducted within the Birmingham Division in an effort to ascertain whether any chapters of captioned group have been formed in the Birmingham Division.

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 8) AM-RM
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2) RM
2 - Birmingham

MME:hss
(7)

cc LHM

DATE FORW: 9/10/65
HOW FORW: RLS

BY: EBC:CD

16 SEP 9 1965

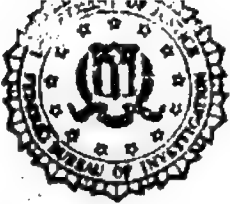
Approved: *E J I*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

7 SEP 17 1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1400 - 2121 Building
Birmingham, Alabama
September 3, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED
FORMATION OF CHAPTER OF "DEACONS
OF DEFENSE" AT EUTAW, ALABAMA

A characterization of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is being attached to this letterhead memorandum.

U. S. Departmental Attorney Brian Lansberg advised the Birmingham Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that during the latter part of August, 1965, he had spoken with [REDACTED] in Eutaw, Alabama, and at that time [REDACTED] informed him that the "Deacons of Defense" had been organized at Eutaw, Alabama, in order to protect themselves. Mr. Lansberg furnished no further information concerning the alleged formation of a chapter of the "Deacons of Defense" at Eutaw, Alabama.

On September 3, 1965, [REDACTED] was interviewed in [REDACTED] Alabama, by Special Agent [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] further advised that he does not know of any chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice located in the State of Alabama. He stated, however, that he and about twelve or thirteen other Negro men residing in Greene County, Alabama, had spread the word in and around Eutaw, Alabama, that the Deacons of Defense and Justice had organized a chapter at Eutaw, Alabama. He stated that he and the twelve or thirteen other Negro men, above-mentioned, had taken this action somewhat in the nature of a psychological retaliation to combat the parading and demonstrating of Klansmen in and around

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1826/yr

ENCLOSURE

75-246-57

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7 RE: INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED
8 FORMATION OF CHAPTER OF "DEACONS
9 OF DEFENSE" AT EUTAW, ALABAMA
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12
13 Greene County, Alabama. [REDACTED] advised that he and
14 the twelve or thirteen other Negroes involved had agreed
15 not to reveal the identities of each other for "security
16 reasons" and that for this reason he had rather not
17 divulge their names. He stated, however, that if he
18 does hear of any chapter of the Deacons of Defense and
19 Justice being formed in Alabama, he will immediately
20 advise the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will
21 also reveal the names of the above-mentioned twelve
22 or thirteen men.

23
24 [REDACTED] further stated that he and the
25 above-mentioned Negro men were not in any way affiliated
26 with the Deacons of Defense and Justice, did not believe
27 in violence in any form and did not have knowledge of
28 any supply of guns or other weapons that might be used
29 in regard to the racial situation in Greene County, Alabama.

30
31 This document contains neither recommendations
32 nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the
33 FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents
34 are not to be distributed outside your agency.
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 9/15/65

FROM : SAC, SAVANNAH (157-731)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM

Rerep of SA [REDACTED], 8/17/65, New Orleans.

Contacts made with all known sources including police departments, sheriffs' offices and state law enforcement agencies in both Georgia and South Carolina have failed to identify any persons being affiliated with the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Contacts with known and reliable informants have failed to produce any information concerning Deacons of Defense and Justice.

For information of Bureau and New Orleans, [REDACTED] is conducting an investigation pertaining to this organization based on information received from newspaper publicity.

[REDACTED] advised 9/7/65 that he had no information pertaining to this organization and had been unsuccessful in obtaining any indication that there were members of this organization in the State of South Carolina.

Savannah Division will maintain contact with informants and sources in an attempt to identify any activity in the Savannah Division.

- ② - Bureau
- 2 - New Orleans
- 1 - Charlotte (Info)
- 1 - Savannah

NLP/dkm
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1824/fh

REC-64

EX 105

157-2466-58

4 SEP 16 1965

EDUC. SEC.
SUBV. CONTROL

SEP 22 1965 U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., was formed at Jonesboro, Louisiana, during the Summer of 1964, following incidents involving racial activities, which incidents created tension in the area.

The organization was formed by Negro leaders in Jonesboro for the announced purpose of protecting Negroes and whites from illegal acts and from acts designed to terrorize the Negro community, and was chartered with main headquarters at Jonesboro, Louisiana. Associate chapters are located at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, and inquiries were received from other groups concerning this movement, but no action has been taken to approve additional chapters.

Officers of Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., assert that the organization is a defensive group with no intention to commit or encourage any offensive acts. Leaders of the organization denied purchase of firearms for the group and further denied knowledge of any source of contacts for this purpose.

The President of this organization disclaims any connection with or influence by subversive elements.

APPENDIX

FBI

Date: 9/3/65

Transmit the following in _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
(Type in plaintext or code)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED,
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
(Priority) OTHERWISE

Airtel

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES

REC-35

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP18h/H.7-17-8
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.20012
DATE OF REVIEW 9-3-85

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465) (P)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
RM

OO: NEW ORLEANS

Re Jackson airtels 8/25/65 and 8/27/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies
of an LHM and two copies are submitted for New
Orleans. One copy each is being forwarded to INTC,
OSI, ONI, and Secret Service, Jackson. [redacted] and
[redacted] have been advised of results in LHM.

[redacted] (c)

b1
b7C
b7D

EX 110

REC-35 157-3466-59

- ③ - Bureau (157-2466) (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc. 2)
- 4 - Jackson (157-3465)

2 SEP 9 1965

INT. SEC.

C. Wick

(1 - 157-452)
JOI/jls
(9)

AGENCY: ACSL, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER.;
DATE FORW: 9/14/65
HOW FORW: R/S
BY: REF-C-9

ENCLOSURE

1cc & cc LHM

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

66 SEP 22 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

M Per